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21 April 1952

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

FROM : Assistant Director for National Estimates

SUBJECT : Proposed National Intelligence Estimate

PROBLEM

To initiate a National Intelligence Estimate on probable developments in French North Africa and Spanish Morocco.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

1. The State Department is preparing a draft NSC paper on French North Africa, Spanish Morocco, and Libya. There is no National Intelligence Estimate on this area.

DISCUSSION

2. The current tension and outbreaks in Tunisia and earlier outbreaks in Morocco are symptoms of the growing nationalism in French North Africa which is creating increasingly serious problems for France and potentially for the US. Growing friction between the French and powerful local nationalist elements in the area may lead to further outbreaks with serious repercussions, particularly since the North African nationalists are being backed by the Arab-Asian bloc in the UN. Complications have also arisen as a result of Spanish policy toward the Arabs, and recent developments regarding Tangiers.

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3. The Board of National Estimates believes that the probable future development of nationalism in the area, probable French and Spanish ability to cope with this development, and the implications for US interests are appropriate subjects for an early NIE. Such an estimate would serve as essential background for NSC consideration of the problem.

4. Although it is presently planned to include Libya in the NSC paper, the Board believes that the NIE need only cover French North Africa, Spanish Morocco, and Tangier. Not only is the Libyan problem more closely akin to those of the Arab States and more properly treated in that context but there is not the same need for national intelligence backing on this area. The State draftsmen of the NSC paper have concurred informally with the omission of Libya.

5. The Board believes that the estimate should have no fixed time limit, but should look as far ahead as seems feasible. This is consistent with the long term nature of the draft NSC policies which will be considered and with the general desirability of longer range estimates.

6. Intelligence representatives of the Department of State, upon whom the main estimative burden would fall, informally concur in the desirability of this estimate. Since the tentative target date for completion of the State draft NSC paper is 1 July, the Board believes that the NIE should meet the same deadline.

RECOMMENDATION

That the DCI request the IAC to approve initiation of the following estimate:

NIE-69: PROBABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN FRENCH AND SPANISH NORTH AFRICA.

WPB:ji
Distribution:
Addressee
DD/I
✓AD/IC
✓AD/NE

CONCUR:

SHERMAN KENT

Deputy Director/Intelligence

ACTION BY APPROVING AUTHORITY:

Approved (disapproved) Date_____

Director of Central Intelligence

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